

Other fire safety brochures are available from the New York State Department of State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Contact your local fire department.

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**Each year, hundreds of people experience what they think are symptoms of the flu: headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizziness.**

**Some recover; some die.**

## WHY?

**Scratch and sniff**



# Carbon Monoxide

**The colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can kill.**

## Where does it come from?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced from burning any fuel. Any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a possible source of CO. Your car is a source of CO, too.

When appliances and their vents are in good working order, there is little danger from CO. When they don't operate properly, fatal CO concentrations can be produced. Running a car in a garage or using charcoal indoors can also cause CO poisoning.

## What does it do?

Carbon monoxide displaces the body's essential oxygen. Besides flu-like symptoms, it can also cause vomiting, loss of consciousness, brain damage and eventually, death. Unborn babies, infants, senior citizens and people with heart problems or breathing difficulties are especially at risk.

## If you feel better . . .

If symptoms disappear and you feel better when you go outside your home, but symptoms reappear when you go back inside, you may have CO poisoning.

## DO'S and DON'TS:

- Install CO detectors in your home; at least one near sleeping areas, another outside furnace room.
- Make sure manufacturer's instructions and local building codes are followed when installing fuel-burning appliances.
- Have your heating system inspected and serviced annually.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- Inspect chimneys and vents regularly for improper connections, rust or stains.
- Be aware of any indications that an appliance is not operating properly.
- If your CO detector activates, open windows, get everyone out and call for help.
- **Never** burn charcoal indoors or in a garage.
- **Never** use a gas oven for heating.
- **Never** leave a car running in a garage.
- **Never** operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in a closed room.

# Where

does carbon monoxide come from?

## CARBON MONOXIDE SOURCES

- 1) Room heater
- 2) Charcoal grill
- 3) Auto in closed garage
- 4) Gas range
- 5) Fireplace
- 6) Oil, wood or gas furnace
- 7) Gas or oil hot water heater

Install at least  
one CO detector  
in your home.

